



UNIT 14 | SESSION 1

JOASH WANTED TO OBEY GOD

2 KINGS 12; 2 CHRONICLES 24

KEY PASSAGE:

Acts 3:19

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Joash wanted to obey God. He honored God at first, but in time, his actions showed that there was still sin in his heart. Jesus wants to change our hearts. When we trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior, He gives us new hearts that want to live for His glory.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

Judah’s King Joash became king at age seven. He redirected all silver that was given at the temple to the workers rebuilding the temple rather than to the priests, and his servants conspired against him, ultimately killing him while traveling on a road trip. Over his 40-year reign, it seems that both Joash’s experiences and influence were significant.

People who do significant things are often remembered for their accomplishments, their victories over powerful enemies, and other prominent moments recorded when people likely stood in awe of their wisdom or greatness. But one incredible detail about King Joash is how he is described in 2 Kings 12:2: “Throughout the time the priest Jehoiada instructed him, Joash did what was right in the LORD’s sight.”

Of all of his great feats and brilliant decisions, Joash was faithful when he listened to the counsel that God had put in his life.

Isn’t this true of all of us? When we listen to the wisdom of the people God has strategically placed in our lives, we are equipped to make better decisions. When God gives us opportunities to lead, though there may be a temptation to lean on our own insight or abilities alone, we will be far

better equipped when we use the peripheral resources that God knows we need and thus has provided.

Often, the only thing that would prevent us from listening to and receiving the counsel of those wise people that God has put around us is our own pride. It can be a real shot to our self-reliance to listen to the insight of others as we are navigating different situations in our lives, especially those that we are seen as the leader. But God has placed those people in our lives for a particular purpose.

God doesn’t ever put us in situations without the resources to walk through them. And often the form that those resources take is the wise counsel of those around us. So, look up, see the people whom God has placed around you, and seek their wisdom, trusting that God often speaks to us through other people.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

Joash: son of King Ahaziah of Judah who took the throne when he was seven years old



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “Have you ever helped an adult restore or rebuild something like a tree house, a piece of furniture, or a car? What happened?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Bible Book Unscramble” on the activity page.

SAY “You all worked hard to unscramble the words, Kings and Chronicles. Our Bible story today can be found in the books of 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles. We will hear how King Joash collected silver from the Israelites to restore God’s temple.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: WHAT DO WE NEED?



Form teams of three or four kids. Distribute a piece of paper and pencil to each group, and assign one volunteer to be the writer for each group. Set a timer for two minutes. When the timer starts, groups will think of tools or art supplies they might need to restore a damaged wooden table.

Encourage kids to write down as many tools as they can think of before the two minutes is up. When the timer stops, go around the room and ask each group to share a tool they thought of. If another group wrote the same tool, they both must cross it off their list. Continue until every group has shared all their items. The group with the most remaining items on their list wins.

SAY “In today’s Bible story, King Joash wanted to repair God’s temple. He assembled workers to use all different kinds of tools to restore the temple. However, we will learn that even after all this hard work, King Joash abandoned God’s temple.”

OPTION 2: FILL THE CHEST RELAY

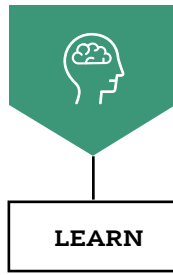
Form two teams of kids. Provide each team with a box and place the box away from the teams on the opposite side of the room. Give each kid a sheet of aluminum foil to crumple into a ball.

Direct kids from each team to race one at a time to their team’s box. Instruct kids to place their ball into the box and race back to their team. Once the kid from each team is back with their team, the next kid may race to the box. Continue filling up the box by have kids race back and forth. The first team to fill their box with all of the aluminum balls wins.

SAY “Today, we will learn that King Joash commanded the people of Judah to fill up a chest with silver. Let’s read our Bible story to understand why Joash gave this command.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “ Hello! I’m so glad you are here! My name is [your name]. Who brought your Bible with you today? [Pass out Bibles to kids who need one.] The Bible is the most important book we can read. The Bible is God’s Word. It is how God speaks to us and tells us what is true.

Our Bible story today comes from the books of 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles. Are these books in the Old Testament or New Testament? [Allow responses.] That’s right, they are in the Old Testament. Even though these books were written thousands of years ago, every word written in them is true for all time because God is eternal and true. ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

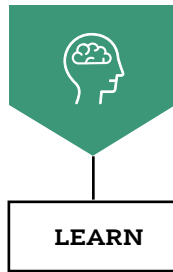
SAY “ Our big picture question for the next few weeks is, **What is repentance?** What do you think repentance means? [Allow kids to respond.] **Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.** In other words, we apologize for the things we do wrong, turn to Jesus, and ask Him to help us obey His commands.

The stories we will learn over the next few weeks will teach us that repentance is a choice. We have to choose to stop disobeying, seek forgiveness, and start obeying God. Let’s say our big picture question together. **What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.** ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “ God promised to lead and provide for the Israelites. He gave them land, allowed them to have kings, and defeated their enemies. However, the Israelites sinned and worshiped false gods. God split Israel into two kingdoms as a punishment for Solomon’s sin. Even though the Israelites continued to sin, God sent prophets to warn them to repent. In today’s story, we will learn that God sent a prophet to King Joash to warn him to turn away from his sin. ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to 2 Kings 12; 2 Chronicles 24. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Joash Wanted to Obey God.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

JOASH WANTED TO OBEY GOD

“**Joash (JOH ash) was seven years old when he became the king of Judah.** He grew up and had a family. **For years, King Joash did what was right in the sight of the Lord.**”

Joash really wanted to renovate the Lord’s temple. He gathered the priests and Levites and said, “Go out to the cities of Judah and collect silver from all Israel to repair the temple of your God. Do this quickly.”

Joash commanded that a chest be placed outside the gate of the temple. All the people in Judah and Jerusalem brought their tax to the temple and put it in the chest. **The people filled the chest with silver.** Every day, the religious leaders emptied the chest, and the people filled it up again.

Then Joash and the high priest gave the silver to the workers in charge of fixing up the temple. They hired stonecutters, carpenters, blacksmiths, and coppersmiths. **The workers restored God’s temple and made it stronger.**

When they finished, the workers gave the leftover silver to Joash and the high priest. They spent the leftover money to make tools and instruments for the temple. **The priests gave burnt offerings in the Lord’s temple every day while Jehoiada the high priest was alive.**

Jehoiada lived a long life. **After he died, the rulers of Judah came and talked to King Joash. Joash abandoned the Lord’s temple.** The people stopped worshiping God. **Joash set up objects and idols for the people to worship. God sent prophets to warn Joash and the people, but they didn’t listen. Because Joash turned away from God, God turned away from him.**

Christ Connection: Joash wanted to obey God. He honored God at first, but in time, his actions showed that there was still sin in his heart. Jesus wants to change our hearts. When we trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior, He gives us new hearts that want to live for His glory. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Display a picture of the temple: Print a picture of the temple from online, or show the picture from a digital device. Hold it up while you tell the story to show the kids what the workers were repairing.

Act out the story: Choose volunteers to act the part of Joash, the priests, workers, and Jehoiada. Direct the rest of the kids to act the part of the people.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Joash began his rule as king by obeying God and leading the people of Judah to obey God. By strengthening the temple where the Israelites worshiped God, Joash set up a physical reminder for all of Judah to demonstrate that only God was worthy of worship. The people joyfully worshiped God by giving their silver to the temple restoration efforts. After the temple’s repairs were complete, the priest Jehoiada led the people in obeying God’s commands for burnt offerings. The burnt offerings showed God that the people of Judah repented of their sin and wanted to obey Him.

How did the people act toward God while Jehoiada was alive? [Allow responses, then read **2 Chronicles 24:14.**] The people obeyed God’s commands and repented of their sins. However, when the priest Jehoiada died, Joash started listening to bad advice and worshiped false gods.

How did God respond when Joash and the people worshiped false gods? [Allow responses.] In His mercy, God sent prophets to call Joash and the people of Judah to repentance. But Joash ignored them. Since Joash chose to ignore God, God turned away from him. Joash refused to repent, and his sin led to terrible consequences. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ Joash wanted to obey God. He honored God at first, but in time, his actions showed that there was still sin in his heart. Jesus wants to change our hearts. When we trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior, He gives us new hearts that want to live for His glory. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 14, Session 1” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Are there any gifts you can give to God?
2. What is the greatest gift God has given you?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Display the Myanmar map. Explain that Myanmar used to be known as Burma. Show the map as you mention the long trip the Judsons took to Burma.

SAY “ Many years ago, a man named Adoniram Judson felt God calling him to tell people in faraway lands about Jesus. Adoniram and his wife, Ann, set sail on a ship for Calcutta, India in 1812. From India, the Judsons sailed on a ship to Rangoon, Burma, now called Yangon, Myanmar.

Adoniram studied the Burmese language for about six months so that he could talk with the Burmese people and tell them about Jesus. Adoniram spent almost 40 years in Burma. Some of the most important work Adoniram did during his years in Burma was to translate the Bible and other



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

Christian writings to the Burmese language. ”

Explain that even though the journey to Burma was long and difficult, the Judsons were determined to tell the Burmese people about Jesus. Pray, thanking God for equipping people to leave their homelands to tell others about Jesus.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Acts 3:19 together.

SAY “ We sin just like the people of Judah and King Joash. When we repent of our sin and accept Jesus’ gift of salvation, He wipes away all of our sin. ”

Guide the kids to sit around a table. Provide one kid with a piece of paper and a pencil. Instruct him to write the first word of the key passage and then pass the paper to the kid on his right. Direct the second kid to write the second word and pass the paper to the kid on her right. Continue passing the paper around the table allowing each kid to write a word from the verse.

Lead kids to complete the activity again, but explain that this time you will be timing them to see how fast they can complete the verse. After they complete the verse, challenge kids to write the verse once more and see if they can beat their previous time.

Lead kids to sing “Repentance (Acts 3:19).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “ God, thank You for loving us enough to call us to repentance. Help us to turn away from sin and turn to Jesus. Thank You for sending Jesus to save us from our sins when we trust in Him. Please help us obey You when we are tempted to sin. Amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**

